

have suffered under the rule of a tyrant. They have watched as their neighbors in Iran increasingly rise up to protest against the tyranny of the Islamic regime. They see the destitution that years of terrorism has brought to the Palestinian people. Democracy is the only way forward—and the people of Iraq know it. We don't have to convince them of it, but we do have to help them implement this dream. That will be the role for reconstruction in the months to come.

If there is a danger that we face in looking at reconstruction policy in Iraq, it comes from holding on to the old belief system that the Middle East just can not handle democracy. Sadly, there are many in various government agencies who strongly cling to this view. We must make sure that those who hand out the funds to rebuild Iraq are on target with the President's vision. We will only get one chance to do this right. We must not revert back to the lobbying of dying regimes in the region. We must stay true to the bold vision that democracy in Iraq is coming.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMM of South Carolina). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, there has been an objection made to the Judiciary Committee meeting today. Thus, as the only way to allow that committee to continue its very important work for the people of the United States of America, I am forced to ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:06 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 3:05 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CRAPO).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—CONFERENCE REPORT TO ACCOMPANY S. 151

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 151, the PROTECT Act, and it be considered as follows: There be 2 hours of debate equally divided in the usual form.

I further ask unanimous consent that following that debate time, the Senate

proceed to a vote on the adoption of the conference report, with no intervening action or debate.

Mr. REID. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could ask my friend to yield for a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. HATCH. Without losing my right to the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. I want to make sure my friend from Utah understands that we, of course, would have no objection to going to the conference report. Our problem is having the majority leader set a time for completing this legislation. We have a number of people on our side who wish to speak. We would be willing to go to the conference report but with no time constraints. I want to make sure my friend understands that.

Mr. HATCH. Could I ask the distinguished Senator how much time he would need?

Mr. REID. I don't really know how much time. I know the Senator from Massachusetts wishes to speak, and he may want to speak for a little while. I think the best thing to do would be to go to the conference report. We have been basically doing nothing for 3 hours today anyway. I am sure it wouldn't take very long. But I don't have any idea. If I could, through the Chair, inquire of the Senator from Massachusetts, does the Senator from Massachusetts have any estimate as to how long we should be on this important legislation?

Mr. HATCH. I yield without losing my right to the floor.

Mr. KENNEDY. I intend to speak about this for some time, and then at the appropriate time I will make a point of order in terms of the bill.

Mr. HATCH. I am sorry to see the objection on this matter because I believe this is one of the most important bills we will ever enact in the Senate, especially with regard to our children, but with regard to criminal law in general.

CLEAN DIAMOND TRADE ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to the consideration of H.R. 1584, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1584) to implement effective measures to stop trade in conflict diamonds, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of the Clean Diamond Trade Act. Clean Diamond legislation passed unanimously through the Finance Committee on April 2, by a voice vote. The bill we are

taking up today is nearly identical to the bill that passed the House of Representatives on April 8, 2003, by a vote of 419 to 2. Today, with the passage of this bill, the Senate is taking a step toward bringing our Nation into compliance with our responsibilities as a participating Nation in the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme.

Passage of this legislation is a true bipartisan success and a significant step forward in stopping trade in conflict diamonds. I would like to thank my colleagues for helping to develop the compromise legislation in this act. I would especially like to recognize the hard work of Senators GREGG, DEWINE, DURBIN, BINGAMAN, and FEINGOLD, whose devotion and dedication to stopping trade in conflict diamonds is unsurpassed.

The Clean Diamond Trade Act will implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. This is an international agreement establishing minimal acceptable international standards for national certification schemes relating to cross-border trade in rough diamonds. It represents over 2 years of negotiations among more than 50 countries, human rights advocacy groups, the diamond industry and nongovernment organizations. The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme will help end the trade in conflict diamonds, which has been fueling conflicts in some African countries for many years, leading to human rights atrocities that are beyond anything we in America have ever experienced. I am pleased that we can help put an end to these atrocities with this legislation.

The next plenary session of the Kimberley Process is scheduled to convene in Johannesburg, South Africa, from April 28 to 30, 2003. The U.S. played a leadership role in crafting the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and it is critical that we implement the certification process before April 28 if we are to retain this leadership. We also need to do this to ensure that the flow of legitimate diamonds into and out of the United States will continue without interruption. Most important, we need to do everything we can to stop trade in conflict diamonds as soon as possible.

This is a trade issue, a consumer issue, and most of all, a human rights issue. Legitimate trade can elevate the standard of living for people all over. This bill sends a strong message that the benefits of trade in valuable natural resources like diamonds should accrue to the legitimate governments and their people in Africa.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of my staff whose hard work helped to get us to this point. First and foremost, my Finance Committee staff led by Kolan Davis, my Chief Trade Counsel Everett Eissenstat, along with Carrie Clark, Zach Paulsen and Nova Daly. And I would like to acknowledge Senator BAUCUS's staff Tim Punke and Shara Aranoff for their help in getting this